

City of Aberdeen
Business Meeting, Work Session
November 17, 2014

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Garner and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Bennett. There were no matters of immediate or urgent business.

Work Session

a. Wellhead Protection Criteria

Mr. Miller reported that the wellhead protection ordinance needs to be updated to: 1) be more readable, 2) be re-examined and updated regarding uses and prohibitions, etc. and 3) to make sure that the recharge area in the Perryman wellfields are protected (although this is not owned by the City). He discussed the history and requirements from the Maryland Department of the Environment in the 1990's. In 2004, Aberdeen adopted an ordinance with two zones. Zone 1, the most restrictive, was a one-year Time of Travel, and Zone 2, which has a 10-year or less Time of Travel. Zone 3 denotes a County recharge area. Mr. Miller asked the Council to review the uses in the Rt. 40 development area and Aberdeen downtown to see if they are appropriate today and what should be prohibited. He will also be meeting with staff to review the Perryman wellfield which is in a recharge area. The Planning Commission would have an opportunity to review and provide input.

b. Hotel Tax Proposal

Mr. Miller stated that the Council has tried for many years to obtain a hotel tax for Harford County. Starting this year, Harford County now has the authority to collect these fees and the new County Executive and the County Council has the ability to create the framework to impose and collect the taxes. He said that the Mayor has put together a plan which proposes that proceeds from the taxes would be designated for tourism and that municipalities would get a buy-right allocation based on where the tax was collected. The Mayor's plan is that these funds could be used toward the needs of the Stadium and to lower the tax rate by 2%.

Mayor Bennett noted that the City will have discussions with the County for their thoughts and suggestions. The City has 1,126 hotel rooms (42% of the total rooms in Harford County) and more rooms are anticipated. There are 14 hotels with in Aberdeen and two more will be added in the future. This could prove to be a large source of income for Aberdeen. He

mentioned that the Cal Sr. Foundation baseball camps and Ripken Stadium are number one tourist attractions in Harford County. The income from the hotel tax will apply to all the municipalities. Economic development groups have been included to move this along.

c. Annexation/TMDL Issues with Water and Sewer Authority

Mr. Miller said that the City has been working with the County and consultants on water and sewer authority concerns. These matters would impact development and annexation for Aberdeen and affect the City's water, assets, and resources. Hydraulic and loading capacities for each water and sewer treatment plant are a major concern. Total maximum daily loading (TMDL) effects could impact the expansion and development of Aberdeen. A moratorium on TMDL may happen to many plants in approximately 15 years. The arrangements on water, between the City and Aberdeen Proving Ground, have not been discussed with the consultants. Mayor Bennett indicated that this TMDL issue could take development from the City and must be worked out before Aberdeen proceeds any further than the Phase II Study.

Other Business:

- The City closed on the E. Bel Air Avenue property.
- The Moose Lodge is scheduled for closing on December 2, 2014.
- The City will visit the Rising Sun Dog Park to obtain ideas.
- A request will be made for a budget amendment for the water plant roof replacement.
- The IBD Ordinance recommendations were ready.
- The audit for FY 2014 is complete with concerns on IT.
- The B&O Station pre-construction conference was rescheduled to December 18, 2014.
- City paving costs exceeded \$3 million with some cost over-runs caused by water/sewer, curb, and sidewalk work. A request is needed for a budget amendment. He hopes that the Highway User Revenues are 100% restored.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 4:44 p.m.